

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the City of Newton. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2002.

Residents of the City of Newton

Characteristics of Admissions

In FY 2002, there were 124,539 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; 0.3% (340) of these admissions reside in the City of Newton.¹ **Please note that these statistics represent only admissions, and can represent a figure larger than the actual number of individuals.** In FY 2002, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from City of Newton reported the following characteristics:

- 69.1% (235) were male and 30.9% (105) were female.
- 56.2% (191) were between the ages of 30-49.
- 86.2% (293) were white non-Latino, 6.2% (21) were black non-Latino, 3.5% (12) were Latino, and 4.1% (14) were other racial categories.
- 62.7% (213) were never married, 13.8% (47) were married, and 23.5% (80) reported not to be married now.
- 15.6% (53) had less than high school education, 48.8% (166) completed high school, and 35.6% (121) had more than high school education.
- 37.7% (128) were employed.
- 14.1% (48) were homeless.
- 35.6% (121) had prior mental health treatment.

Primary Substance of Use

At admission clients identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the City of Newton.

Table 1					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2002					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
City	58%	24%	5%	4%	4%
State	45%	37%	6%	4%	3%

Substances Used in Past Year

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as ‘polydrug’ or ‘polysubstance’ use.

¹ To protect client confidentiality, statistics representing clients under 17 years of age have been omitted from this fact sheet.

Table 2 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, as well as the prevalence of injection drug users (IDU's), individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 2 Number of admissions Reporting Substance Used: FY 1995 – FY 2002							
City of Newton							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	282	223	94	93	50	74	62
FY '96	315	262	107	92	44	81	65
FY '97	345	291	114	98	40	63	42
FY '98	317	261	93	70	30	65	57
FY '99	313	256	77	66	30	89	71
FY '00	346	290	104	73	35	105	87
FY '01	302	241	86	58	33	73	59
FY '02	340	264	84	82	37	100	81

Heroin and Injection Drug Use

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the City of Newton and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV.

